to the State of Kerala. The request of the Minister of the State of Kerala was forwarded to the Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution for consideration. That Ministry informed that the proposal of restoration of 450 MTs per month was considered by them and it has been decided to retain the allocation of 309.63 MTs of rice per month for 2006-07. In case in February-March, 2007, the offtake is towards the higher side, the State Government of Kerala could ask them for revision in 2007-08. They have further informed that this decision was duly conveyed to the Government of Kerala.

Non-implementation of the new old-age pension scheme under NSAP

2552. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the States have not implemented the enhanced old-age pension scheme under the National Social Assistance Programme announced in the Budget 2006-07;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the programme and the States which have not implemented the schemes under the programmes; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to ensure that the schemes are implemented in all the States without further delay?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) All the States except of the State of J&K, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh are disbursing pension at enhanced rate. The State of Kerala and Uttar Pradesh have intimated that the matter is under consideration. The State of J&K has intimated that in view of operational constraints, they have decided to implement the proposal for grant of Old Age Pension at revised rates w.e.f. 1st April, 2007.

Under National Old Age Pension Scheme (NOAPS) Central assistance of Rs. 200 per month has to be provided per beneficiary for destitutes above 65 years. Under National Family Benefit Scheme (NFBS) Rs. 10000/- has to be given to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) bereaved household on the death of the primary breadwinner. The death of such a primary

breadwinner occurring whilst he or she is in the age group of 18 to 64 years. Annapurna Scheme aims at providing food security to meet the requirement of those senior citizens who, though eligible, have remained uncovered under the NOAPS. Under this Scheme 10 Kgs of food grains per month are provided free of cost to the beneficiary.

Finance Minister in budget speech for the year 2006-07 has announced an increase in pension under NOAPS from Rs. 75/- per month per beneficiary to Rs. 200/- per month per beneficiary.

(c) As per guidelines of the Scheme, the States are required to furnish quarterly physical and financial progress report in the given format by the 15th of month of the following quarter. Non reporting of the physical and financial progress reports is constructed as lack of progress and therefore, may result in non-release of Additional Central Assistance (ACA) for the last quarter of the financial year. At least 50% of the ACA funds released must be utilized by the States and UTs by 31st December of the financial year so that the ACA for the remaining three months of that financial year, i.e. January, February and March could be released. Before release of funds for the last quarter, the State/UTs shall also furnish Utilization Certificate for the funds released during the previous financial year to the Ministry of Rural Development.

To review the programme and to implement the Programme in more effective manner, meetings of Nodal Secretaries of States dealing with NSAP and Annapurna are organized by the Ministry of Rural Development from time to time. Also review of NOAPS, NFBS and Annapurna has been made part of the agenda of District Level Vigilance and Monitoring Committees.

Schemes under NSAP

2553. SHRI SYED AZEEZ PASHA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the details of the schemes evolved under the National Social Assistance Programme announced in Budget 2006-07;

(b) the funds provided for each of the Schemes and how far they have been implemented in various States; and